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ABSTRACT

This study surveys student characteristics of age, sex, use of veterans' benefits, employment and enrollment status, and residence for students enrolled in Black Hawk College's cooperative program with the River Bend Library System to offer individualized courses, primarily on videocassette, in area public libraries. It concludes that the program is serving the students for whom it was designed--the part-time student over age 25 who has full-time employment or full-time home responsibilities. The introductory section provides a detailed description of the cooperative program. (Author/EMH)

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A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN LIBRARY-BASED COURSES AT BLACK HAWK COLLEGE, MOLINE, ILLINOIS, June 1, 1975, TO February 3, 1976

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February, 1976

Prepared at the Request of the River Bend Library System, Coal Valley, Illinois

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ABSTRACT OF A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN LIBRARY-BASED COURSES AT BLACK HAWK COLLEGE, MOLINE, ILLINOIS, JUNE 1, 1975, TO FEBRUARY 3, 1976

This study surveys student characteristics of age, sex, use of veterans' benefits, employment and enrollment status, and residence of students enrolled in Black Hawk College's new cooperative program with the River Bend Library System to offer individualized courses, primarily on video-cassette, in area public libraries. It concludes that the program is serving the student for whom it was designed--the part-time student over age 25 who has full-time employment or full-time home responsibilities. The introductory section provides a detailed description of the cooperative program.

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BACKGROUND

Black Hawk College's library-based program, known as Study Unlimited, which is modeled on the Study Unlimited program operating in Chicago as a joint project of the Chicago Public Library and the City Colleges of Chicago, began on June 1, 1975. It is a cooperative program of Black Hawk College, Quad-Cities Campus, Moline, Illinois, and the River Bend Library System, Coal Valley, Illinois.

In this cooperative program, the River Bend Library System purchased five videocassette players and five television monitors for use in four area libraries that had indicated their wish to participate: the Mineral-Gold Public Library in Mineral, Illinois; Western Township Library in Orion, Illinois; the Silvis Public Library in Silvis, Illinois; and the Erie Public Library in Erie, Illinois. The library system has also purchased supplementary reading material for placement in participating libraries and has designated one staff member to act as coordinator of the program within the library system.

Libraries participating in the program have designated one staff member as primarily responsible for the program within the library. This person has had to become familiar with registration procedures and with course materials and

general requirements for the courses offered in the program. He also has assisted the Black Hawk College coordinator of the program in identifying students who are not making reasonable progress in courses and in attempting to ensure that they do so and in reaching course instructors for answers to questions, and he has helped to make library patrons aware of the program. In some cases, individual libraries have purchased filing cabinets and audiocassette players for use by students in the program.

In addition to course instructors, Black Hawk College provides the audiovisual material necessary for the courses, primarily videocassettes but also audiocassettes and printed material. It has provided a third-time coordinator, secretarial help, and an advertising budget. The college has also made available to participating libraries, depending upon enrollment, a part-time academic advisor, hired and trained by the college and living in the area served by the library, to provide academic and career counseling to the students enrolled at the library, to publicize the program in the community, and to assist the librarian in record-keeping and notification of students. At the present time, eight months into the program, the Silvis Public Library, which has had the largest enrollment, has a Black Hawk College faculty member at the library one evening per week to assist students enrolled in the videocassette course to prepare for the G.E.D. examination; a part-time academic advisor for eight hours per week; and, because the

librarian at the Silvis Public Library has had successful experience with student help and had indicated a wish for such help in the program, a work-study student for 15 hours a week to assist in simple clerical work. Western Township Library's enrollment has just qualified that library for a part-time academic advisor for five hours a week. In addition, the Black Hawk College Study Unlimited coordinator makes scheduled visits to all libraries and assists in academic advisement, and, thus far, one instructor in the program has been visiting libraries to conduct question-and-discussion sessions.

The aim of the program is to provide enough courses so that someone attending on a part-time basis can earn an associate degree through the program. Currently, the following videocassette courses are available: the first semester of freshman rhetoric, the first semester of American history, business law, and psychology of women. All videocassette courses except business law have been developed by Black Hawk College; business law is being offered on a temporary basis through an agreement with Chicago TV College. Plans call for the insertion of the second semester of freshman rhetoric and the one-semester freshman sociology survey course on videocassette into the program in 1976-77. Both of these courses have been or are being developed by Black Hawk College faculty. The business law course will be dropped from the program and another videocassette course from Chicago TV College,

selected by the librarians on the basis of a survey of their patrons, will also be inserted.

In addition to videocassette courses, audiocassette courses can also be used in the program. At present, one course on audiocassette is offered--college reading skills--but it is hoped that the development of other audiocassette courses for the program by Black Hawk College faculty can be accomplished.

And, finally, some courses designed for home study and in printed form are offered in the program. The student registers for these courses at the library, where he also receives course materials and takes examinations. Currently, five courses of this type are offered, all of them interdisciplinary courses in the social sciences, and it is possible for a student to earn 17 semester hours of college credit in these courses.

The Silvis Public Library also has a drop from Quint-Cities Cablevision so that a student can take courses at the library offered by Black Hawk College over cable television.

Study Unlimited also provides assistance to the individual wishing to prepare for CLEP or the G.E.D. examinations. Both Black Hawk College and the River Bend Library System have provided materials for the student preparing for these examinations. Class work in preparation for the G.E.D. examination is provided by a series of videocassettes developed by

Kentucky Educational Television. This course and all text-books are provided at no cost to the student, who may also make use of instructors on the college campus or at out-reach locations when he needs help additional to the videocassettes.

In addition, any library patron may use materials available in the libraries for personal enrichment or review without cost to him and without registering for the course. Usage of this sort is occurring, especially in the psychology of women course for which study-discussion groups have been organized in all four libraries.

Three factors distinguish the type of television delivery system used in Study Unlimited. First of all, it is variable entry-exit. That is, a student can register for a course on any day and then take up to twenty weeks to complete it. Such a system is possible because of the audiovisual and study guide materials developed for courses offered in the program. Second, the course is truly self-paced. The student may work as rapidly as he wishes, and it is possible for him to review past lessons or parts of them if he needs to do so. And, finally, the program brings college credit courses and G.E.D. preparation close to the student's home, at local libraries.

Black Hawk College entered the Study Unlimited program for a number of reasons. Direction for such participation has been given by a number of national studies, including the report of the Commission of Non-Traditional Study. Study

Unlimited is one part of the college's general efforts to make its educational services more accessible to students who have been unserved by the college up to this time, especially to the man over age 25 who is employed full-time and to the woman over age 25 who is employed full-time or whose time must be spent primarily in the home. Thus, it is anticipated that many students enrolled in the program will not have attended Black Hawk College before, will be employed full-time, and will be enrolled as part-time students.

One of the purposes of this demographic study is to determine whether or not the Study Unlimited program is serving the type of student for whom it was designed. Thus, the study considers data on student age, employment status, college enrollment status, and sex. Another major purpose of this study is to assist in determining the possible need for the location of additional library centers in other areas. Finally, the survey includes data on whether or not students enrolled in the program are studying under veterans' benefits to assess the possible impact upon the program of changes in legislation providing such benefits. Whenever it is appropriate and the information is available, comparisons of characteristics of Study Unlimited students are made to characteristics of the general student body of Black Hawk College, Quad-Cities Campus.

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN LIBRARY-BASED COURSES AT BLACK HAWK COLLEGE, QUAD-CITIES CAMPUS

From June 1, 1975, to February 3, 1976, 105 students enrolled in Study Unlimited college credit courses, with a number of these students enrolling in more than one course. There was a total of 169 individual registrations in courses, and registration totaled 427 semester hours of credit, or 4.07 hours on the average per student. In addition, 15 students enrolled in the course offering preparation for the G.E.D examination. The addition of data for students enrolled in this course changes total individual registrations to 184, total number of students enrolled to 120, and the semester-hour total for all courses to 472, or 3.93 semester hours per student. Thus, the program should reach or exceed Black Hawk College's first-year enrollment goal of 567 semester hours by May 31, 1976.

Of these students, 75, or 62.5%, were first-time enrollees at the college, and 45, or 37.5%, were returning students. Thus, the program seems to be attracting new students to the college and serving, in the majority, students who have never used Black Hawk College educational services before this enrollment.

TABLE 1: General Enrollment Data for Study Unlimited June 1, 1975-February 3, 1976

	College-Credit Courses	G.E.D. Preparation	Total
Number of Students Enrolled	105	15	120
Number of Course Registrations	169	15	184
Total Semester Hours	427	45	472
Average Hours per Student	4.07	3	3.93
Number of New Students	62	13	75
Number of Old Students	43	2	45
Percentage of New Students	59%	87%	62.5%
Percentage of Old Students	41%	13%	37.5%

The Study Unlimited program is intended for part-time students. Data on the enrollment status of students in the program shows that 63 percent are part-time students, significantly higher than the percentage of part-time students in the general college population. The full-time students in the program are also taking courses on campus. Although thus far in the program, one course has been offered in Study Unlimited that has not been available at the same time on the

campus, most of those students who are full-time are using courses in the Study Unlimited program to supplement campus registration as a convenience.

TABLE 2: Student Enrollment Status of Students Enrolled in College-Credit Courses in Study Unlimited (6/1/75-2/3/76) Compared to Student Enrollment Status for the General College Population

	Full-time	Percent of Total	Part-Time	Percent of Total	Status Unknown	Percent of Total
Study Unlimited Students	30	28.5%	66	63%	9	8.5%
General College Population		45.4%		54.6%		

Seventy-two percent of students enrolled at Black Hawk College during the fall semester of 1975 worked full- or part-time. Fifty-nine percent of students enrolled in Study Unlimited are employed. Although a number of factors could account for this variation, it is probable that the most significant factor is the larger percentage of full-time housewives enrolled in the program than is present in general college enrollments.

TABLE 3: Student Employment Status of Students Enrolled in College-Credit Courses in Study Unlimited (6/1/75-2/3/76)

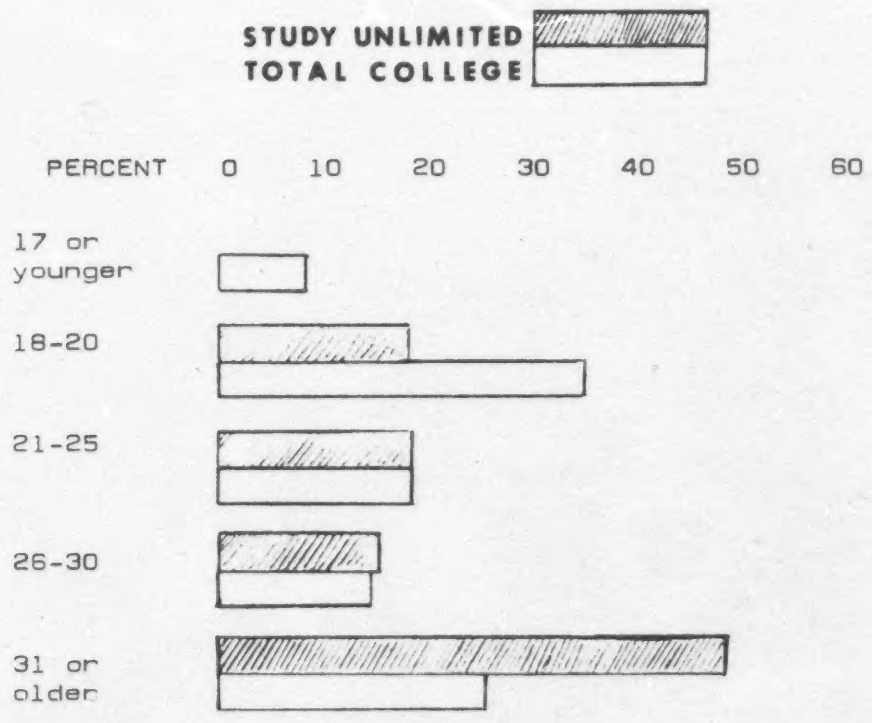
	Number	Percentage of Total
Full-time(35 or more hours per week)	38	36%
Part-time(fewer than 35 hours per week)	25	23%
Not Employed	22	21%
Status Unknown	20	19%

The Study Unlimited program was expected to serve men and women over age 25. Thus far, 65% of students enrolled in the Study Unlimited program are over age 25; 40% of all Black Hawk College students enrolled in the fall semester of 1975 were over age 25. Thus, Study Unlimited is enrolling a significant number of older students.

TABLE 4: Comparison of Age Distribution of Study Unlimited Students(6/1/76-2/3/76) and All Black Hawk College Students, Quad-Cities Campus(Fall, 1975)

Study Unlimited Students	number	percent of total
17 or younger	0	0%
18-20	18	18%
21-25	18	18%
26-30	16	16%
31 or older	49	48%
General College		
17 or younger	402	7.5%
18-20	1824	34%
21-25	989	18.5%
26-30	734	14%
31 or older	1360	25.5%

FIGURE 1 COMPARISON OF AGE DISTRIBUTION OF STUDY UNLIMITED STUDENTS (6/1/75-2/3/76) AND ALL BLACK HAWK COLLEGE STUDENTS, QUAD-CITIES CAMPUS (Fall semester, 1975)



There is six percent more enrollment of women students in Study Unlimited courses than is found in the general college population, but most of this difference occurs because of a much higher incidence of women students in the course to prepare for the G.E.D. examination. The totals in Study Unlimited college-credit courses are about the same as those found in the general college population.

TABLE 5: Comparison of Distribution by Sex of Students Enrolled in All Study Unlimited Courses (6/1/75-2/3/76) and All Black Hawk College Students, Quad-Cities Campus

	College Credit	Percent	GED Prep	Percent	Total	Percent
Study Unlimited						
Male	48	46%	4	19%	52	41%
Female	57	54%	17	81%	74	59%
Total	105	100%	21	100%	126	100%
General College						
Male					3570	47%
Female					3996	53%

An average of 30% of students enrolled in Study Unlimited are studying under veterans' benefits, higher than the average of 22% among the general college population during the spring semester of 1976.

TABLE 6: Students Studying under Veterans' Benefits in Study Unlimited (6/1/75-2/3/76)

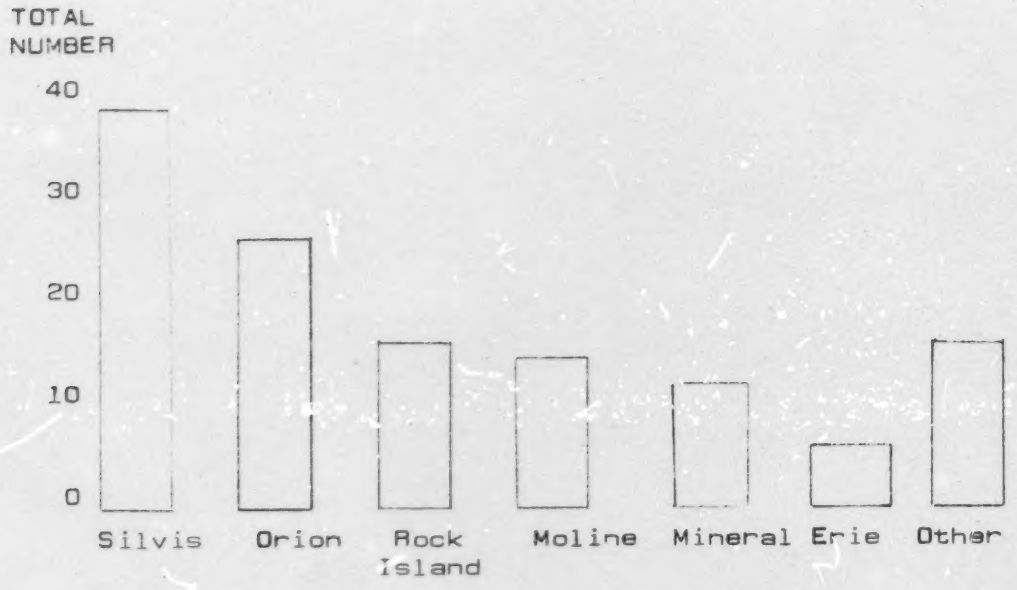
	Number	Percent
Yes	32	30%
No	62	59%
Unknown	11	10%

Data concerning the residence of students enrolled in the program suggest trends and needs. As could be anticipated because of the large enrollments at the Silvis Public Library, the largest single grouping of students by residence is found in the East Moline-Silvis-Carbon Cliff-Green Rock-Colona area. The next largest grouping occurs in the Orion-Lynn Center-Sherrard-Coal Valley area, once again as could be anticipated because the Western Township Library in Orion has the second largest enrollment. However, there are more enrolled students from the Rock Island-Milan and the Moline areas than from areas served by the other two Study Unlimited libraries--the Mineral-Neponset-Sheffield-Atkinson area and the Erie-Hillsdale-Fenton area. Students residing in other areas are widely scattered. Of course, there is potential need for Study Unlimited library centers at any place within the college district and the presence of a library center in a community attracts students from areas near that community; still it is of some significance that 16 students are traveling from the Rock Island-Milan area to courses at the Silvis Public Library and 14 students residing in Moline are taking courses at the Silvis Public Library. Such data strongly suggests a possible need of students living in these cities for a Study Unlimited library closer to their residence, especially in the Rock Island-Milan area because it is geographically farther from Silvis than Moline and because residents of that area currently do not have the option of taking Black Hawk College television courses in their homes over Quint-Cities Cablevision, which does not serve the Rock Island-Milan area.

TABLE 7: RESIDENCE OF ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STUDY UNLIMITED COURSES, 6/1/75-2/3/76

RESIDENCE	NUMBER IN COLLEGE-CREDIT COURSES	NUMBER IN GED PREP	TOTAL NUMBER
Orion	14	2	16
Silvis	8	8	16
East Moline	12	2	14
Moline	13	1	14
Rock Island	14	0	14
Mineral	5	1	6
Colona	3	2	5
Geneseo	3	1	4
Lynn Center	4	0	4
Sheffield	3	1	4
Coal Valley	3	0	3
Aledo	2	0	2
Hillsdale	2	0	2
Fenton	2	0	2
Milan	2	0	2
Port Byron	2	0	2
Green Rock	1	0	1
Neponset	1	0	1
Cambridge	1	0	1
Hoopole	1	0	1
Davenport, Ia.	1	0	1
Sherrard	1	0	1
Atkinson	1	0	1
Reynolds	1	0	1
Taylor Ridge	0	1	1
Barstow	0	1	1
Carbon Cliff	0	1	1
TOTAL	105	21	126

FIGURE 2 RESIDENCE OF ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STUDY UNLIMITED COURSES, 6/1/75-2/3/76, GROUPED BY AREA



SILVIS= East Moline, Silvis, Carbon Cliff, Green Rock, Colona

ORION= Orion, Lynn Center, Sherrard, Coal Valley

ROCK ISLAND = Rock Island, Milan

MOLINE= Moline only

MINERAL=Mineral, Neponset, Sheffield, Atkinson

ERIE =Erie, Hillsdale, Fenton

SUMMARY

This demographic study strongly suggests that Study Unlimited thus far is serving students for whom the program was designed--the man over age 25 who is employed full-time, the woman over age 25 who is employed full-time or whose time must be spent primarily in the home, and the individual who wishes to attend college part-time. It suggests a need for a Study Unlimited library in either the Moline or the Rock Island-Milan area. And it suggests that the impact of changes in legislation providing veterans' benefits would be greater on the Study Unlimited program than on the total college program by approximately 36%. Also because of the large number of students who are receiving veterans' benefits and who are enrolled in the program, it is necessary that librarians and part-time academic advisors receive more information on the aspects of these benefits that could affect students using them in the program.